



TRANSPORTATION INCENTIVE PROGRAM (TIP) NEWSLETTER

OUTSIDE THE NATIONAL CAPITOL REGION (ONCR)

ISSUE:
MAY 2010

NEW ENROLLMENT DEADLINES:

Friday, May 21, 2010

Friday, June 18, 2010

Please make a note of these schedule changes on your calendar.



QUESTION OF THE MONTH:

How much money can be carried over in my van pool debit card account from month to month?

Van pool personnel (vendor/treasurer) must issue a money order once the surplus reaches \$200; a \$50 balance may be left on the account for future fluctuation.

MASS TRANSIT BENEFIT PROGRAM MAKES HEADLINES

The Department of Defense Inspector General (DoDIG) conducted an audit of the DoD Mass Transit Benefit Program inside the National Capital Region. DoDIG's objective was to assess the reliability and completeness of the data used to determine participant eligibility in Mass Transportation Benefit Program. They found that the data used to support the benefit program were incomplete and unreliable. Over 75% of participant records contained incomplete or inaccurate data that were determined critical for program management. As a result, DoDIG found that ineligible persons were likely receiving transit benefits and participants were overstating their transportation costs for a combined, estimated abuse of \$1.5 million. The report that was issued on 16 April 2010 received some attention. The Washington Times picked up the story and ran the headline, "Feds run off track with Pentagon transit perk" bringing negative attention to a popular DoD



benefit program. Congress has authorized a generous mass transit subsidy for government employees. But to maintain this benefit program, it is essential that everyone from participants to van pool treasurers to DON points of contact to TIP program managers all work together to ensure that the correct critical information is collected, reviewed, and maintained. Without sound program management to support the Transportation Incentive Program, we may be only one more newspaper headline away from more bad news.

DON CONTACT INFORMATION

PROGRAM MANAGER:

Joshua Coover
joshua.coover@navy.mil
202-685-0399

MAILING ADDRESS FOR APPLICATIONS:

Director, Office of Financial Operations
720 Kennon St., SE, Bldg 36, Rm 115
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5025
ATTN: Transportation Incentive Program

FAX: 202-685-6765

E-MAIL ADDRESS: M_WNYD_TIP@navy.mil

WEBSITE: <http://www.fmo.navy.mil/services/tip/tip.htm>

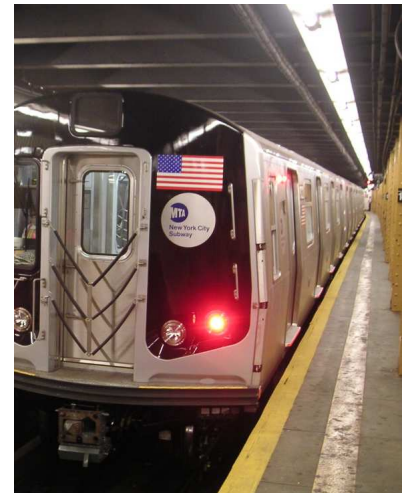


WHY IS THE CERTIFICATION STATEMENT IMPORTANT?

By Linda J. Washington, Assistant Secretary for Administration
Department of Transportation

The purpose of this message is to provide a reminder to all DOT managers, supervisors, and transit benefit participants of the requirements and expectations related to the transit benefit program and the serious consequences associated with any violations of these requirements. By signing the certification statement in the transit benefit application, each employee participating in the transit benefit program is entering into a contract with the U. S. Government which states:

- 1) You are not named on a worksite parking permit at any Federal agency, nor otherwise participating in a carpool.
- 2) You are using transit benefits only for your regular home to work transportation, and will not transfer or sell the fare media to anyone else.
- 3) The amount of transit benefits you receive does not exceed your actual monthly commuting cost by public transportation.
- 4) It is a violation of law to provide false or fraudulent information to obtain transit benefits, or to transfer or sell transit benefits.
- 5) You are responsible for adjusting your transit benefit amount upon changes to your commuting methods or work schedules such as extended leaves or telecommuting. It is imperative that employees familiarize themselves with these requirements as violations can result in revocation of transit benefit privileges and other serious consequences up to and including removal from Federal service.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

1. Return all unused vouchers using Department of Transportation Media Return Form immediately following the 10-day distribution period.
2. Email an encrypted soft copy of the **Alpha Listing** with all new enrollees to joshua.coover@navy.mil before the deadline.
3. Ensure that all applications are signed by the participant and a supervisor who can verify the participants commuting costs.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CONTACT INFORMATION

DOT AGENT:

Mrs. Keesha Perry
Keesha.Perry@dot.gov
202-366-0256 – phone

DOT ALTERNATE AGENT:

Ms. Megan Warker
Megan.Warker@dot.gov
202-366-1292 – phone

MAILING ADDRESS FOR RETURNING VOUCHERS

(ALL VOUCHER RETURNS SHOULD BE SENT VIA OVERNIGHT MAIL):

Keesha Perry
US DoT
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590

FAX: 202-493-2436